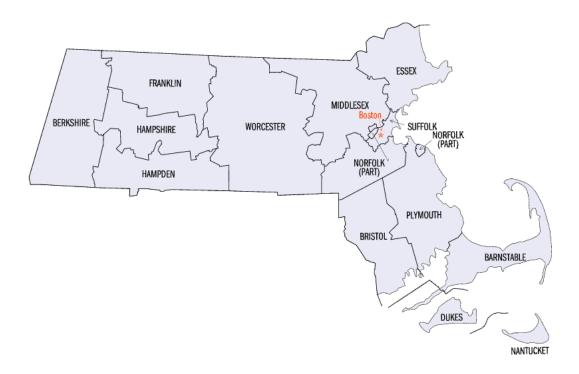
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Massachusetts

Profile of Drug Indicators

January 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Massachusetts

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 6,379,304 (2001 estimate); 6,349,097 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 81.9% white; 5.0% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3.7% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.7% other race; 1.7% two or more races; 6.8% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)

Politics

- ➤ Governor: Mitt Romney²
- ➤ Lieutenant Governor: Kerry Healey³
- ➤ Attorney General: Tom Reilly⁴
- > Secretary of the Commonwealth: William Francis Galvin⁵
- ➤ U.S. Senators: Edward Kennedy (D); John Kerry (D)⁶
- ➤ U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-10, respectively): John W. Olver; Richard E. Neal; James P. McGovern; Barney Frank; Martin T. Meehan; John F. Tierney; Edward J. Markey; Michael E. Capuano; Stephen F. Lynch; William D. Delahunt⁷
- ➤ Capital: Boston⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- ➤ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
 - The New England HIDTA was designated in 1999 due in part to the high purity heroin found throughout the area and the criminal groups trafficking heroin and crack cocaine from New York to New England. The New England HIDTA is responsible for areas in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. The Massachusetts areas involved in New England HIDTA efforts are as follows: Suffolk, Essex, Worcester, Plymouth, and Hampden Counties.
- Governor's Alliance Against Drugs (GAAD)¹⁰
 GAAD was created in 1985 to provide community organizations, agencies, and Massachusetts citizens with information, services, and resources to augment prevention efforts against substance abuse and violence within their communities.
- Massachusetts Inhalant Abuse Task Force¹¹
 Created in 1995, the Massachusetts Inhalant Abuse Task Force provides parents, teachers, healthcare workers, and other youth-serving professionals with inhalant abuse prevention information. In May 1996, the Task Force launched A Breath Away, a statewide campaign designed to increase public awareness of inhalant abuse through the dissemination of educational materials and information about effective prevention strategies.
- ➤ Cops and Kids¹²
 - The Cops and Kids anti-drug program targets youths in grades six through eight during the at-risk, after school hours of 3:00-6:00 p.m. In its first year of implementation, \$1 million in grants were provided to 20 pilot communities for the

development of innovative, comprehensive programs that would best fit the needs of their youth.

Federal Funding

- ➤ Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Massachusetts: ¹³
 - FY 2002
 - \$100,000 to the Community Coalition for Teens, Greenfield
 - \$99,974 to the South Berkshire Youth Coalition, Great Barrington
 - \$99,968 to the Strategic Planning Initiative for Families and Youth, Northampton
 - FY 2001
 - \$100,000 to the Health Protection Advisory Council, Lexington
 - \$100,000 to the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, North Adams
 - \$100,000 to the Amherst Community Partnership, Amherst
 - FY 2000
 - \$100,000 to the Watertown Youth Coalition to Prevent Substance Abuse, Boston
 - \$100,000 to the Somerville Prevention Coalition, Somerville
 - \$98,920 to the Framingham Coalition for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Framingham
 - \$97,178 to the South Boston Community Coalition to Prevent Substance Abuse, Boston
 - \$88,182 to the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition, Winchester
 - FY 1999
 - \$100,000 to Community Anti-Drug Coalitions, Inc., Springfield
 - \$99,610 to New Bedford Prevention Partnership, Inc., New Bedford
 - \$98,475 to Massachusetts General Hospital Revere Cares Coalition, Revere
 - FY 1998
 - \$100,000 to the Boston Coalition Against Drugs and Violence, Boston
 - \$100,000 to the Cambridge Prevention Coalition, Cambridge
 - \$100,000 to Healthy Malden 2000, Inc., Malden
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹⁴
 - Six Massachusetts sites have been officially recognized and received Federal funding as Weed and Seed sites: Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Lowell, Methuen, and Woburn.
- ➤ FY 2001/2002 SAMHSA Formula and Discretionary Grant Summary for Massachusetts: 15
 - Formula Funding \$44,158,701
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant \$33,999,328
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant \$8,650,294
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) -\$1,012,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant \$497,079
 - Discretionary Funding \$26,770,466
 - Mental Health \$13,971,803
 - Substance Prevention \$5,127,216
 - Substance Abuse Treatment \$7,671,447

- Total Mental Health Funds: \$1,012,000
- Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$46,797,991
- Total SAMHSA Funds for Massachusetts: \$70,929,167
- > FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Massachusetts: \$11,591,053¹⁶
- ➤ FY 2002 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount awarded to Massachusetts: \$685,352¹⁷
- ➤ FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Discretionary Grant recipients in Massachusetts: 18
 - \$500,000 to the Massachusetts Trial Court/Hampden County Juvenile Court, Springfield (drug court implementation grant)
 - \$300,000 to the Massachusetts Trial Court/Brighton District Court, Brighton (drug court enhancement grant)
 - \$299,999 to the City of Lawrence Community Development Department, Lawrence (drug court enhancement grant)
- ➤ There were no Massachusetts recipients of the FY 2002 funding available from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to fight methamphetamine.¹⁹
- > FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Federally-Assisted Low Income Drug Elimination grants received in Massachusetts:²⁰
 - \$125,000 to the Quincy-Geneva Housing Corporation, Dorchester
 - \$125,000 to Cobbet Hill Apartments, Lynn
 - \$123,714 to Wardman Apartments, Roxbury
 - \$200,000 to Taurus at Fountain Hill, Roxbury

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

➤ During 2001, there were 16,528 arrests for drug abuse violations in Massachusetts. ²¹

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Massachusetts, 2001

Offense	Juveniles	Total
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	4	73
Forcible rape	67	487
Robbery	405	1,526
Aggravated assault	1,797	10,805
Burglary	803	3,012
Larceny-theft	2,562	12,040
Motor vehicle theft	414	1,187
Arson	61	122
Drug abuse violations	2,359	16,528
Driving under the influence	163	11,319
Liquor laws	1,360	4,694

➤ The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 687 drug arrests in Massachusetts during 2001. ²²

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Massachusetts, 1997-2001

Year	Arrests
1997	793
1998	860
1999	832
2000	896
2001	687

➤ An increasing number of pharmacy burglaries and armed robberies have been attributed to the increase in OxyContin abuse in the State. ²³

Drugs

> Cocaine

Cocaine is readily available in gram to kilogram quantities throughout the State. Cocaine prices are stable with slight decreases in purity levels noted.²⁴ In the first quarter of FY 2002, powdered cocaine sold for \$24,000-\$32,000 per kilogram and \$50-\$100 per gram, and purity levels ranged from 30-90% at the wholesale level and 20-70% at the retail level. Crack cocaine sold for \$900-\$1,600 per ounce and \$10-\$20 per rock, and purity levels ranged from 30-90%.²⁵

> Heroin

Heroin has emerged as the greatest drug threat to Massachusetts. ²⁶ A new potent form of heroin has been made available in Boston and other areas of Massachusetts. This new heroin is often sold in \$4 bags and is powerful enough to be sniffed. ²⁷ Purity levels throughout Massachusetts routinely exceed 60%. ²⁸ The purity range in the State is 20-90%. ²⁹

> Marijuana

Marijuana is readily available in Massachusetts. While the majority of the marijuana found in the State is of Mexican origin, marijuana produced in Colombia and Jamaica has also been encountered. Domestically grown marijuana is also available in all areas of the State. In the past few years, an increase in the amount of marijuana cultivated indoors as well as an increase in the size of the marijuana plants has been noted. In 2002 in northeastern Massachusetts, marijuana produced in Mexico or in States along the southwest border sold for \$900-\$1,400 per pound, while higher potency, hydroponic marijuana produced in Canada sold for \$4,000 per pound. In western areas of the State, marijuana produced in Mexico or in States along the southwest border sold for \$1,000-\$1,200 per pound, and hydroponic marijuana produced in Canada sold for \$3,000 per pound. A single marijuana joint typically sold for \$5 throughout the State.

> Methamphetamine

The abuse of methamphetamine is limited in Massachusetts. However, methamphetamine abuse has been noted in some areas of Cape Cod and western Massachusetts. Methamphetamine is sometimes abused at rave parties by young adults ages 18-26. Individuals in their late 30s to early 40s also abuse the drug.³²

Club Drugs

MDMA and ketamine are readily available in Massachusetts. MDMA is often found at rayes, in legitimate nightclubs, and on college campuses across the State. GHB is

widely available, especially in western Massachusetts.³³ In the first quarter of FY 2002, MDMA sold for \$5-\$16 per tablet at the wholesale level and \$20-\$25 per tablet at the retail level. GHB sold for \$5 per dosage unit at the retail level during the first quarter of FY 2002.³⁴

- Other Drugs
 - Oxycodone products continue to be diverted in Massachusetts. OxyContin has become a popular substitute for heroin and is sometimes used in conjunction with MDMA. Doctor shopping rings, forged and/or altered prescriptions, and diversions from an individual's prescriptions are the most common methods of diverting OxyContin in the State.³⁵ In the first quarter of FY 2002, a 20-milligram OxyContin tablet sold for \$20, a 40-milligram Percocet tablet sold for \$20, a 20-milligram Xanax tablet sold for \$15, and a Vicodin tablet sold for \$2-\$5 in Massachusetts.³⁶
- ➤ According to 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 35% of Massachusetts citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.³⁷

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, Massachusetts, 1999-2000 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages	
Past month use of any illicit drug	14.58%	25.76%	8.82%	11.35%	
Past month use of marijuana	12.35	24.81	6.28	9.03	
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	4.67	6.87	2.76	3.42	
Past year cocaine use	1.63	6.44	1.46	2.06	
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	29.17	18.22	38.55	35.27	

According to 2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 2% of Massachusetts citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.³⁸

Percent of Citizens Reporting Dependence, Massachusetts, 2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	3.20%	4.53%	1.15%	1.75%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	6.00	6.33	1.41	2.43
Alcohol dependence	2.20	4.88	2.10	2.44
Alcohol dependence or abuse	7.38	18.52	5.38	7.12
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	9.80	21.44	6.09	8.26

Juveniles

➤ More than half (50.4%) of Massachusetts high school students surveyed in 2001 reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.³⁹

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Gender, Massachusetts, 2001

	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	47.1%	53.7%	50.4%
Current marijuana use	27.3	34.5	30.9
Lifetime cocaine use	6.8	9.7	8.3
Lifetime inhalant use	11.5	13.3	12.4
Lifetime heroin use	1.7	4.1	3.0
Lifetime methamphetamine use	5.9	8.0	7.0
Lifetime illegal steroid use	3.1	6.4	4.8
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	0.9	2.4	1.7
Tried marijuana before age 13	9.2	14.5	11.9

Approximately 63% of Massachusetts high school seniors reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes. 40

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Grade, Massachusetts, 2001

9th 10		10th	11th	12th
Drug Type and Use	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade
Lifetime marijuana use	37.1%	50.0%	55.8%	62.6%
Current marijuana use	23.3	30.8	34.4	37.1
Lifetime cocaine use	5.2	6.5	11.3	11.0
Lifetime inhalant use	14.1	10.5	13.3	11.1
Lifetime heroin use	2.9	2.2	3.3	3.2
Lifetime methamphetamine use	5.7	6.3	8.4	7.9
Lifetime illegal steroid use	4.3	5.3	4.4	5.1
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.7	1.0	2.3	1.5
Tried marijuana before age 13	12.7	11.3	10.4	12.5

Enforcement

- ➤ New England HIDTA Initiatives in Massachusetts:⁴¹
 - New England HIDTA Financial Task Force: Found in Boston, the purpose of this task force is to identify, investigate, and prosecute large-scale drug money laundering organizations.
 - Greater Boston Task Force: Led by the FBI, this task force targets mid- to upper-level criminal organizations in the Greater Boston area.
 - Central Massachusetts Task Force: This task force is led by the DEA and consists
 of State, Federal, and local investigators targeting widespread criminal
 organizations in Central Massachusetts.
- As of October 31, 2001, there were 20,043 full-time law enforcement employees in Massachusetts. 42

Trafficking and Seizures

➤ Colombian and Dominican drug traffickers dominate the distribution of cocaine and heroin throughout Massachusetts. 43

- ➤ The majority of the MDMA found in the State originates from sources in Western Europe and New York. There have been a limited number of seizures involving MDMA that originated in Canada.⁴⁴
- ➤ OxyContin is frequently imported into Massachusetts from Mexico. 45
- During 2001, Federal agencies seized 862 kilograms of marijuana in Massachusetts. 46

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Massachusetts, 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized (in kilograms)
Cocaine	123.6
Heroin	4.4
Methamphetamine	0.0
Marijuana	862.0

- From 1996 to 2001, the DEA and State and local authorities in Massachusetts seized four methamphetamine labs: three labs in 1998 and one lab in 2001. 47
- During 2001, there were 1,763 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated and seized in Massachusetts under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.⁴⁸

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Massachusetts, 2001

Outdoor Operations		<u>Indoor O</u>	,	
	Cultivated			Total
Plots	Plants	Grows	Plants	Plants
Eradicated	Eradicated	Seized	Eradicated	Eradicated
61	1,353	6	410	1,763

Courts

- ➤ Drug Courts⁴⁹
 - As of November 26, 2002, there were five drug courts that have been operating for over two years, eleven drug courts that have been recently implemented, and seven additional drug courts that were being planned in Massachusetts.
- ➤ During FY 2001, 47.7% of the Federally sentenced defendants in Massachusetts committed drug offenses. Over 33% of the drug offenses involved crack cocaine. ⁵⁰

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Massachusetts, FY 2001

Drug Type	Offenses	% of Total
Crack cocaine	80	33.1%
Powder Cocaine	57	23.6
Marijuana	54	22.3
Heroin	40	16.5
Methamphetamine	1	0.4
Other drug	10	4.1

Corrections

➤ On January 1, 2002, there were 2,018 drug offenders within the Massachusetts Department of Corrections, making up 21% of the total population.⁵¹

Number of Inmates, by Offense Committed and Gender, Massachusetts, January 1, 2002

	Fen	nal <u>e</u>	Male		Male <u>To</u>	
Offense	#	%	#	%	#	%
Person	170	31.8%	4,452	49.1%	4,622	48.1%
Sex	18	3.4%	1,704	18.8%	1,722	17.9%
Property	95	17.8%	819	9.0%	914	9.5%
Drug	186	34.8%	1,832	20.2%	2,018	21.0%
Other	66	12.3%	268	3.0%	334	3.5%
Total	535	100.0%	9,075	100.0%	9,610	100.0%

[➤] Approximately 15% of the drug offenses involved trafficking 28-100 grams of a Class B substance.⁵²

Number and Type of Drug Offenses, Massachusetts, January 1, 2002

Type of Drug Offense	#	%
Possession of hypodermic syringe/instrument	9	0.4%
Conspiracy to violate Controlled Substances Act	24	1.2
Possession of controlled substance – no drug class specified	32	1.6
Possession of controlled substance – Class A	12	0.6
Possession of controlled substance – Class D	2	0.1
Possession of controlled substance – Class E	1	0.0
Fraudulent prescriptions	1	0.0
Class A – Distribution/possession w/intent to distribute	252	12.5
Class A – Distribution/possession w/intent to distribute, subsequent	85	4.2
Class B – Distribution/possession w/intent to distribute	207	10.3
Class B – Distribution/possession w/intent to distribute, subsequent	92	4.6
Specific Class B – distribution or possession w/intent to distribute	126	6.2
Spec. Class B – distrib. or poss. w/intent to distribute, subsequent	79	3.9
Marijuana – trafficking 50-100 pounds	2	0.1
Marijuana – trafficking 100-2,000 pounds	1	0.0
Specific Class B – trafficking 14-28 grams	257	12.7
Specific Class B – trafficking 28-100 grams	305	15.1
Specific Class B – trafficking 100-200 grams	175	8.7
Specific Class B – trafficking 200+ grams	150	7.4
Class A – trafficking 14-28 grams	16	0.8
Class A – trafficking 28-100 grams	28	1.4
Class A – trafficking 100-200 grams	10	0.5
Class A – trafficking 200+ grams	7	0.3
Class D – distribution/possession w/intent to distribute	6	0.3
Drug violation – school/park	134	6.6
Induce minors in sale and distribution of drugs	4	0.2
Counterfeit drugs – distribution/possession w/intent to distribute	1	0.0
Total drug offenses	2,018	100.0

- Correctional Recovery Academy (CRA)⁵³
 The Massachusetts Department of Corrections contracts with Spectrum Health Systems, Inc., of Worcester, to provide residential programs targeting substance abuse, anger management, criminal thinking, and relapse prevention. There are seven CRA units throughout the Department. A major component of the CRA is substance abuse monitoring. All participating inmates are drug tested upon entry into the sixmonth residential component and on a monthly basis thereafter.
- ➤ The Massachusetts adult probation population decreased 4.1% in 2001, from 45,233 on January 1 to 44,119 on December 31.⁵⁴
- ➤ The Massachusetts adult parole population increased 0.4% in 2001, from 3,703 on January 1 to 3,718 on December 31.⁵⁵

Consequences of Use

➤ There were nearly 17,000 emergency department (ED) drug episodes reported by Boston emergency departments in 2001. Cocaine was mentioned 4,933 by ED staff.⁵⁶

Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, Boston, 1997-2001

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	4,890	5,130	4,439	4,976	5,818
Cocaine	3,332	4,526	3,560	4,099	4,933
Heroin	1,500	2,738	2,861	3,867	4,358
Marijuana	1,768	2,907	1,960	2,945	3,423
Amphetamines		180	216	369	392
Methamphetamine	13	6	12	14	14
MDMA	16	39	87	125	140
Ketamine	4	12	10	23	10
LSD	37	53	44	41	33
PCP	22	21	7	11	23
Miscellaneous hallucinogens	31	18	39	25	31
GHB	2	6	26	26	28
Inhalants	10	1		13	0
Combinations not shown above			5	6	5
Total drug episodes	12,224	13,657	11,669	14,902	16,853
Total drug mentions (all drugs)	22,392	24,876	21,219	25,863	29,795

- ➤ During 2000, there were 343 drug-related deaths reported by medical examiners (ME) in the Boston area (includes Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, and Suffolk Counties).
- ➤ Heroin/morphine was mentioned 183 times by the MEs.⁵⁷

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and ME Drug Mentions, Boston Area, 1996-2000*

Drug Type	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Alcohol-in-combination	104	100	143	116	115
Cocaine	134	107	145	117	118
Heroin/morphine	141	171	186	168	183
Marijuana		1	1		4
Amphetamines		2	1		
Methamphetamine	2	2		10	
Club drugs					1
Hallucinogens					1
Inhalants	5	5	6	5	
Narcotic analgesics	142	97	108	74	118
Other analgesics	32	37	24	13	12
Benzodiazepines	24	26	51	15	25
Antidepressants	47	66	110	66	54
All other substances	66	70	72	26	36
Total drug deaths	258	302	368	344	343
Total drug mentions (all drugs)	697	684	847	610	667

^{* 1996, 1997, 1998,} and 1999 data includes Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties. Bristol and Worcester Counties did not provide information in 2000.

Treatment

➤ During 2001, there were 75,086 admissions to drug and alcohol treatment programs in Massachusetts. ⁵⁸

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Massachusetts, 2001

rumoer of rumissions to freatment, ivid	Number of	Percent of
Drug Type	Admissions	Total
Alcohol only	14,347	19.1%
Alcohol with secondary drug	12,276	16.3
Cocaine – smoked	2,757	3.7
Cocaine – other route of administration	1,546	2.1
Marijuana	3,257	4.3
Heroin	37,257	49.6
Other opiates	2,692	3.6
PCP	22	0.0
Hallucinogens	90	0.1
Amphetamines	76	0.1
Other stimulants	26	0.0
Tranquilizers	451	0.6
Sedatives	48	0.1
Inhalants	7	0.0
Other	234	0.3
Total admissions	75,086	100.0

Sources

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³ Massachusetts Lt. Governor Web site:

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¹⁹ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement,

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²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ National Drug Intelligence Center, Massachusetts Drug Threat Assessment Update, April 2002: http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/908/908p.pdf²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ "Massachusetts Deals with Potent Heroin," Narcotics Enforcement & Prevention Digest, June 14, 2002

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- http://www.state.ma.us/doc/PROGRAMS/deptsrvs.htm

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⁵⁶ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Emergency Department Trends from the Drug Abuse Warning Network, February 2002:

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